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High-level political forum on sustainable development
Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
9–18 July 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Reports of the regional forums on sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

1. In 2018, as in previous years, the regional commissions convened regional forums on sustainable development to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Those forums were convened to respond to a number of mandates.

2. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[1] participants recognized how regional frameworks could complement and facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level. They emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including the regional commissions and their subregional offices, played a significant role in promoting the balanced integration and operationalization of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions.

3. In its resolution 67/290, the General Assembly decided on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In the resolution, Member States continued to acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development. They invited the regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

4. Similarly, the value of follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels was recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and Member States were encouraged to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, so that such forums could contribute to the global follow-up and review process, including at the high-level political forum.

* E/HLPF/2018/1.
[1] See General Assembly resolution 66/288.
[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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5. The dates and locations of the regional forums for 2018, as well as the symbols of the reports, are as follows:

(a) Economic Commission for Europe region, Geneva, 1 and 2 March (E/HLPF/2018/2/Add.1);

(b) Asia-Pacific region, Bangkok, 28–30 March (E/HLPF/2018/2/Add.2);

(c) Latin America and the Caribbean region, Santiago, 18–20 April (forthcoming);

(d) Arab region, Beirut, 24–26 April (forthcoming);

(e) Africa region, Dakar, 2–4 May (forthcoming).

6. The regional forums are generally organized in collaboration with partners of the regional commissions, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.